

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Released 5-10-55 - 11:00 A.M.

Week Ending 5-9-55

WEATHER Temperatures averaged considerably above normal in the east to slightly in the west. Unseasonably high temperatures occurred on two days in the east. Several of the warmer days were dry and windy. There was no precipitation of consequence.

April was warm and dry. Average temperatures were the highest of record in the east to slightly above normal in the west. Precipitation was near to slightly above normal along the western and eastern borders, but most of the remainder of the state was very dry. A considerable area in the central portion of the state and a smaller one in the eastern portion of the Panhandle received less than half an inch. Strong drying winds were frequent.

CROPS All small grain crops including alfalfa, wild hay, and pasture showed a rather marked deterioration during the past week. This was due to the dry soil, high winds, and two days of abnormally high temperatures. Cooler weather during the week-end helped to check some of the deterioration.

The condition of winter wheat slumped heavily during the week. Brown spots are showing up and there is some burning. The condition is worse in central Nebraska. The moderate to heavy showers which occurred April 27 in some of the northern and eastern counties relieved the situation temporarily. Also moderate to heavy precipitation in some western Nebraska counties on April 12 has delayed deterioration there. Between these two areas, moisture is very short and wheat has been damaged.

There were a few reports of early wheat heading in some of the southern counties. Nearly all of the wheat could still recover with a good general substantial rain. On the other hand, continued dry weather, high temperatures, and winds will bring rapid deterioration; particularly in the central third of the state.

Oats and barley also need moisture badly. There was a rather marked drop in the condition of these crops during the past week. Some barley in western Nebraska has been blown out. In areas where substantial rain fell April 27, oats are doing well.

About 5 to 6% of the corn was planted last week. A number of counties report insufficient moisture to sprout the corn; also some farmers are waiting for rain before planting and others are considering planting grain sorghum instead of corn. If dry weather continues, it appears there may be a considerable shift from corn to grain sorghum this year.

Irrigated alfalfa is very good, but dry land alfalfa, particularly in the central third of the state, is very short. Some newly sown alfalfa is being damaged by the dry weather. Much of the wild hay needs moisture badly.

Pastures are slow because of the dry soil. Tame grass pastures in extreme western Nebraska where substantial rain occurred April 27 made progress but are needing moisture again. Pastures are also slow in the sand hill area. There were a few reports of cattle being sold because of short pasture and feed supplies.

Practically all counties report a short supply of surface moisture and only a few counties reported ample subsoil moisture. Precipitation for the first four months of the year in south central and northeastern Nebraska is less than the normal for April. The recent soil moisture survey showed a substantial supply of moisture in the third and fourth feet of summer fallowed fields. Some farmers are irrigating wheat, and a few have irrigated corn land prior to planting.

LIVESTOCK Farmers are very much concerned over the outlook for feed and pasture for livestock. A few farmers have already reduced their herds. Feed supplies which were plentiful during the winter, have been used or sold off, and the present supply is short. There is a good demand for pasture and very little available even at high rental rates.

NOTE Note the moisture deficiency on the April precipitation map. This map and the map showing precipitation for the first four months of the year would be of real interest if published.

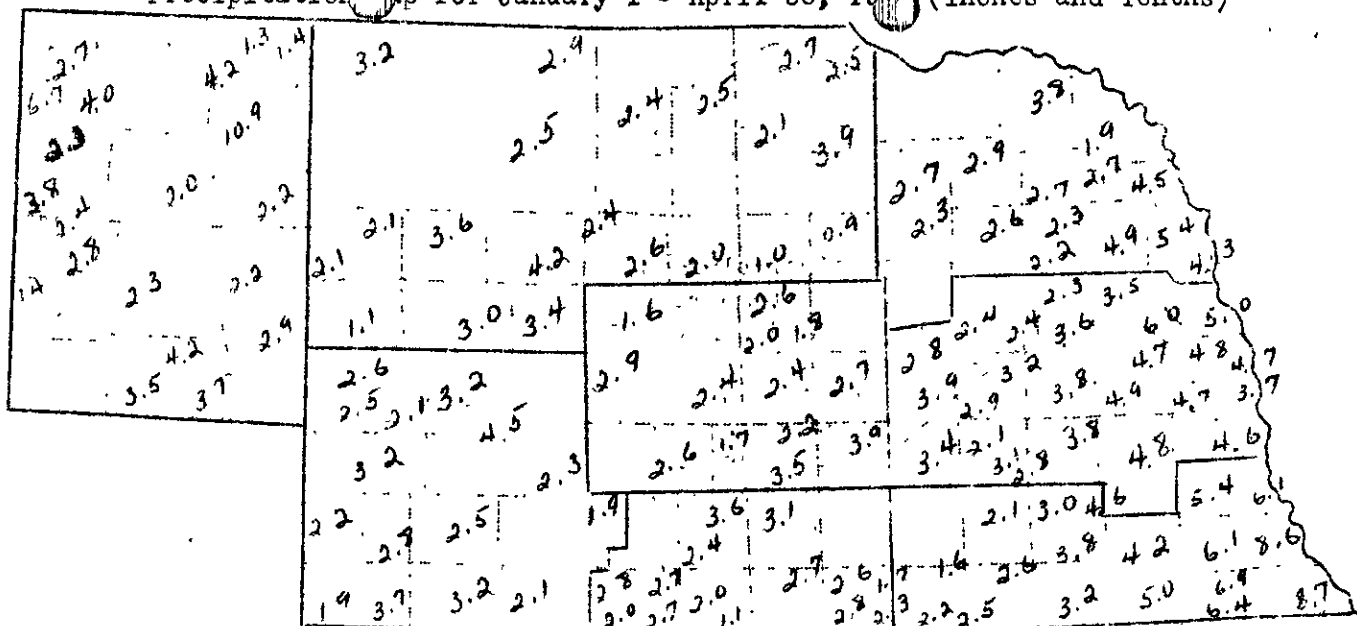
WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 9, 1955

<u>Eastern Division</u>	<u>Central Division</u>	<u>Western Division</u>
Grand Island .03	Burwell 0	Chadron 0
Lincoln 0	North Platte .04	Imperial 0
Norfolk .03	Valentine 0	Scottsbluff 0
Omaha .29		Sidney 0
Sioux City .03		

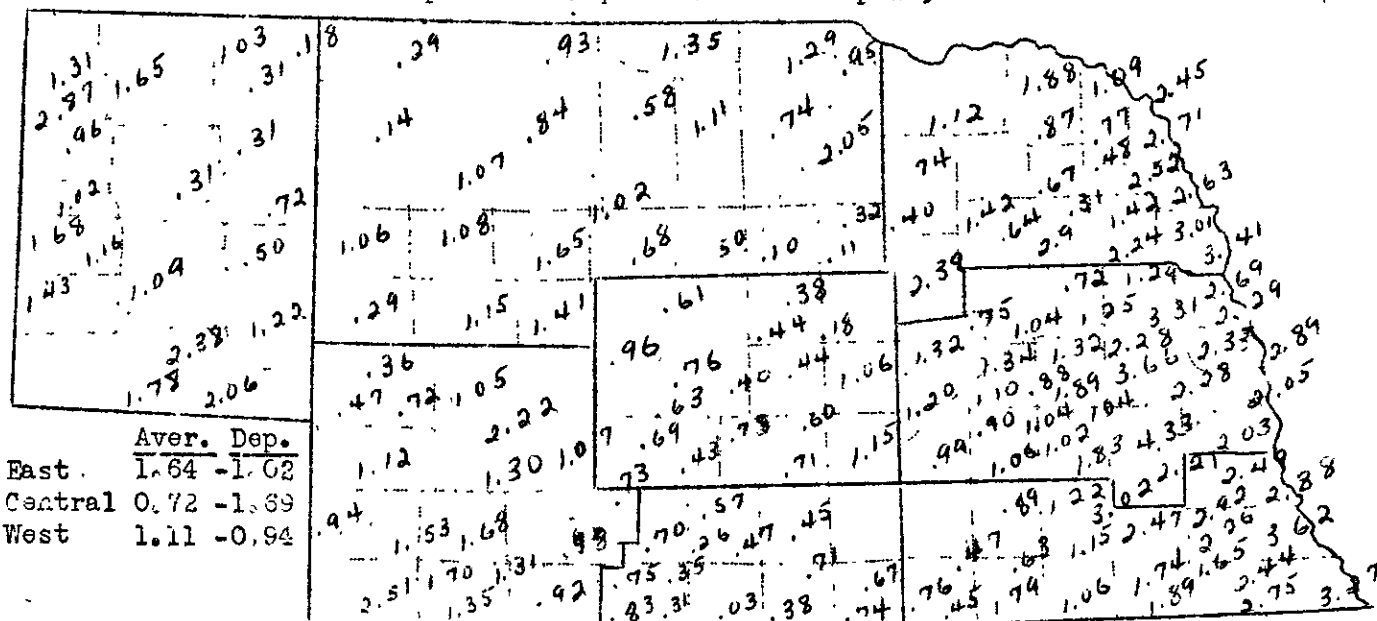
Precipitation, April 1-May 6, 1955

	<u>Eastern Div.</u>	<u>Central Div.</u>	<u>Western Div.</u>
Total past week	0.06	0.07	0.02
Total since April 1	1.65	0.72	1.30
Normal since April 1	3.22	2.07	2.50

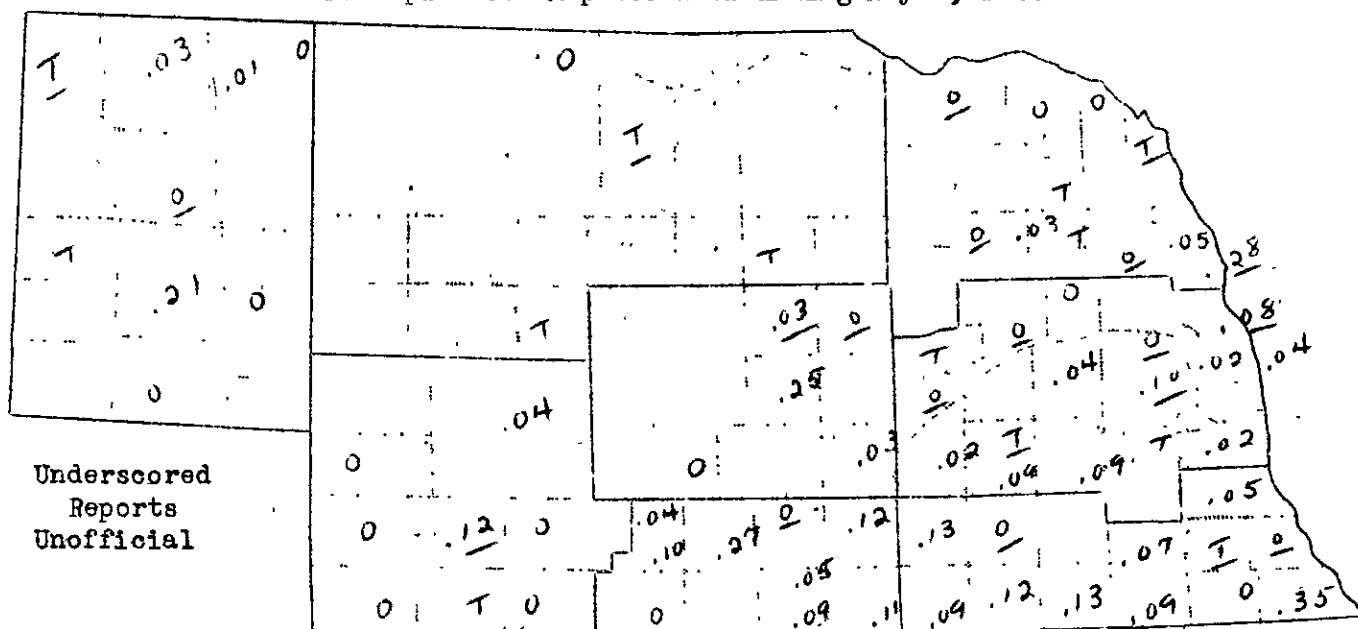
Precipitation Map for January 1 - April 30, 1955 (Inches and Tenths)



Precipitation Map for Month of April, 1955



Precipitation Map for Week Ending May 6, 1955



HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURES (Highs for 24 hours ending at 12:30 a.m., and lows for 12 hours ending at 6:30 a.m. CST)

		May 3rd		4th		5th		6th		7th		8th		9th	
		Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
NW	Chadron	83	45	68	33	68	31	84	50	74	37	66	46	71	46
	Scottsbluff	81	41	66	40	73	38	82	47	80	40	66	45	67	43
	Sidney	81	30	66	38	75	36	82	43	84	39	64	44	67	41
N-C	Burwell	97	..	79	37	77	37	87	55	93	43	69	..	70	48
	Valentine	71	41	71	35	83	53	76	47	63	39	66	47
NE	Norfolk	95	61	81	44	77	43	80	60	92	53	68	32	69	55
	Sioux City	88	70	82	51	78	47	79	57	92	54	67	38	67	51
Cen.	Grand Island	93	58	79	47	77	43	84	59	94	52	69	39	69	57
E-C	Lincoln	90	64	82	52	80	48	81	62	94	60	72	39	70	55
	Omaha	88	67	80	55	78	52	77	61	94	55	70	39	65	49
SW	Imperial	86	35	75	38	78	38	84	45	90	44	69	38	65	43
	North Platte	88	43	74	41	74	40	83	45	89	46	67	36	62	41